The Indian Poultry Gazette.

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EDITORIAL NEWS.

It is with regret that we have to announce that the All-India poultry exhibition cannot be held at Poona this coming December. Mr. Bruen writes to say that owing to the present state of the Bombay Presidency it has not been able to collect funds for this undertaking. All keen fanciers on the Western side of the country will regret this decision, but, as times improve the Presidency will no doubt make up for lost time.

With the result of this decision, the All-India will be held in Calcutta, the date of which we hope to announce in our next issue.

Shows in India cannot be undertaken without a good financial backing, and all will agree that the Committee, who generously give up their lesuire hours (and the poor Hon. Secretary who usually sits up half the night on behalf of the exhibitors) should not be expected to dip into their pockets to make up any losses incurred. A few Governments help every year, and also a few members and exhibitors with donations towards to the show fund, but we would appeal again to your kindness to assist. However small your donation, it will be thankfully received and faithfully applied. Let us all try to make the coming annual show the biggest and best yet.

Exhibitors from districts should get together with a view of sending their exhibits collectively, to save expense and see that the birds are well attended during their long journey.

Poultry Exhibitions are the very life of the industry. Without them, how can we hope to improve our breeds, or how do we know if we are travelling along the right road of advancement. By these shows others are induced to take up the keeping of better stock, more especially the householder, who sees the advantage of the better table egg, *and fowl, and so is the industry propagated throughout the land.*

How often have we heard the remark at our shows :—"Fancy that bird taking a prize, why I have better birds at home." To these persons we would especially appeal to bring their birds along. We all welcome competition, the keener the better for us all, as an owner of good stock can always be sure of doing good business amongst poultry-keepers. Even the best of our breeders out here are always looking for the better bird to improve his strain.

Letters are still coming along regarding the awards, which have proved interesting reading, This is a very difficult question to deal with. Providing the show funds are good, there is no reason why the number of special cups and prizes should not be increased, and be awarded to the Amateur fanciers. It has only been in recent years that Government owned farms have been allowed to carry off the I. P. C. Challenge Cups, and, as Hon. Secretary of the Club, we do not thing this rule can be recinded until the Annual General Meeting, which takes place during the Annual show. However, those members who desire a change, should tabulate their resolutions to be put on the Agenda. As we have said in this paragraph, the more entries received *for the shows, the more prizes will be awarded,* so really it is for everybody concerned to support to their utmost ability.

BETTER POULTRY FOR INDIA.

(By "Progress")

Whether for eggs, meat, or pleasure, poultry enter largely into the life of almost everyone in India; whether he lives in town or village; whether he keeps them for profit or pleasure. The importance of poultry is, therefore, as great, if not greater, than crops, and the prosperity of India depends perhaps more upon the efficiency of its poultry than upon any other one thing.

Of all the animal industries, poultry production is the best adapted to intensive culture. Cattle breeding is but one step above the chase, and is carried out in new and sparsely settled countries. The importance of the poultry industry has been realised more vividly than anything else by the Royal Commission, and their recommendations on this vital subject go deeper, and are sounder and more practical than possibly upon any other subject. The problem of poultry production in India is three-fold: The quality of the poultry must be improved; the production of poultry foods increased, and the need of proper sanitation be brought home to the Indian. The task before India is immense, but progress is possible, and will be obvious and rapid if the problem is tackled in the wholesome manner recommended by the Royal Commission.

There are many ways suggested for improving the poultry industry, none of them miraculous, but all good and practicable; and there are splendid starting places—such as the U. P. P. Farm at Lucknow with their already well-known breeds of English poultry—for the improvement of the desi hen. The rest is sheer hard work and ceaseless propaganda among the producers of the English breeds of poultry. The ommission calls eloquently to the large land owners ughout India to follow the example of the great s of the poultry industry in Britain and the , and make the breeding of profitable poultry es and their hobby. No better nor more pursuit exists, and no more valuable future of India could possibly be done.

We firmly believe that the Commission's appeal will not be in vain, and that the landowners of India will regard the improvement of poultry and the possession of profitable birds as their first duty to their country. For the Government, the Commission lays down the provision of provincial breeding farms, followed up by intensive breeding in controlled areas. Breeding farms should be established in the selected areas and made centres of operations. Farm managers will supervise the work in their respective areas, follow up the progress of the breeding stock and their progeny, and keep accurate records of the best producers.

Co-operative societies should be formed; poultry shows organised, and every effort should be made to improve the quality of poultry, and the conditions of poultry keeping generally. The villagers should be taught and encouraged to improve their poultry; desi males should be steadily eliminated, and the poultry in the areas steadily graded up until finally the stock will be of sufficient efficiency to provide a profitable source of income.

This is the only way to set about the improvement of poultry in India, and this the only way to produce profitable poultry throughout the Indian community.

The problem of producing good poultry stock in sufficient quantities is immense, and the controlled areas scheme is the only possible solution of the problem, and in every province in India there is no reason why it should not be immediately adopted.

The production of good poultry, however, difficult though even that is, is not the hardest part of the task. The improvement of the crop areas, and the education of the villagers, both as to the value of good stock and the necessity for its proper feeding, are far harder nuts to crack. The Indian villager will yield to propaganda, however, just as villagers do in other parts of the world, and wherever it has been tried in India the results have been wonderful. Propaganda, therefore, intensive and continuous, must accompany all efforts in the improvement of poultry in India.

BETTER RESULTS FROM ARTIFICIAL INCUBATION.

Different circumstances require different management: Look to the breeding stock: Faulty Storage and Dead in Shell: The Kind of eggs to discard: Poor Hatchability is inheritable: The Power to reproduce, not merely to produce: Humidity and Ventilation.

By E. C. Graham,

Our knowledge on the subject of artificial incubation makes slow progress. We seem to have got stuck in a rut, for it cannot be trustfully said that we know how to obtain better results than we did five, ten, or fifteen years ago. Personally, I manage to get comparatively good average hatches, but I cannot claim to be *extraordinarily* successful. I have made little experiments, until I have hit upon the system of management that seems best to suit my own particular conditions. The great difficulty in laying down rules on the subject is, of course, that different circumstances demand different management. Tank machines require different attention from hot-air machines; incubators in an attic demand different attention from those in a cellar; machines at an altitude of five hundred feet cannot be worked in the same manner as those in a valley.

Nevertheless, there is one rule that is invariable: You cannot get strong chicks, unless the breeding stock is healthy and sound. This is the very first thing to look to if results are not all that they might be. It is foolish to pretend that one's stock is beyond reproach, when it is not. The general management of the breeding stock also has an important bearing on the matter. To be healthy and vigorous, the birds must be well housed, sheltered from wind and rain, and properly fed.

Having taken pains in producing strong hatchable eggs, you should not next arrange for their proper storage until they are required. The eggs from the breeding pens should be frequently collected, since they are not improved by the alternate warmth of laying birds and the intense cold of a frosty day. I always keep the eggs in single layers on shelves, covering them with bran to prevent the drying of the membranes. In my opinion, faulty storage accounts for a good many dead-in-shell. All badly-shaped eggs should be discared, for it is waste of money to incubate them; both thin-shelled and thick-shelled eggs should also be set aside. Barnevelders' eggs, which have very thick shells, are notoriously difficult to hatch; the action of the carbon-dioxide apparently does not affect them sufficiently to enable the chicks to find their way out. I have been told that more moisture and a slightly higher temperature help matters.

There is no real answer to the question: "How long may eggs for incubation be kept?" They should be used as soon as possible. The older the egg, the drier become the membranes, and the chick dies from lack of oxygen—not from excess of carbon-dioxide (as is often stated), of which there is less in an incubator than under a hen. Fresh eggs hatch several hours sooner than older ones, though texture of shell effects the actual time of hatching; further, a vigorous embryo will take many hours less to complete developement than a weak one.

A friend once impressed on me that there is fifty per cent. more oxygen in the air-cell of an egg than in ordinary air. He believed that while a hen conserved this gas, the free air in the incubator allowed it to escape, or to become diluted. He recommended giving less ventilation during the first week.

A point that is overlooked by many is that poor hatchability is highly inheritable, and any hen whose eggs hatch badly should be removed from the pen. Unfortunately, only the pedigree-breeder can usually detect offenders. The daughters of hens which lay eggs that hatch badly are invariably unable themselves to produce eggs giving a large percentage of chicks. It is the power to *reproduce*, not merely to produce, that makes a good bird.

It is interesting to recall the fact that whereas eggs taken from an incubator and placed beneath a broody hen after seven days hatch no better, when the process is reversed a considerable improvement is shown. Why is it? Does the hen conserve

the gas mentioned above? At any rate, it tells us that it is during the first week when things go wrong *in an incubator. The important consideration is:* Are those which escape dying-in-shell affected by the adverse conditions in an incubator?

My own experience had taught me to give a high temperature at the beginning of the hatch. I run my machines thus: First week, 105 degrees; second *week, 104 degrees; third week, 103 degrees. Correct* thermometers are essential. You should have one tested by a chemist, comparing the others against it by placing them in water heated to 103 degrees. *Be careful that the water is not hotter, or you will* break the thermometer. Half a degree out will not matter, if you bear the error in mind.

Personally, I do not believe in cooling, and I have not cooled my eggs for years. Most breeders, in fact, have now given up the practice. Cooling *may, however,* the beneficial, when the temperature has run up too high. On the other hand, I do not think that eggs can be turned to much. My own eggs are turned three times daily; they must, at any rate, be turned twice daily. Testing should be done on the seventh day, and again on the fourteenth.

The questions of humidity and ventilation are troublous ones, and they should always to considered together. Stagnant air must be avoided at all costs; *but too much ventilation will cause the eggs to* evaporate to quickly. This, however, may be counteracted by increasing the amount of moisture. It is generally considered the moisture is best supplied *outside* the machine by putting some damp sand underneath it. One really cannot give too much moisture, if ventilation is sufficient.

A great deal can be learned by examining the dead-in-shell. If they fill the shell completely and are somewhat wet, more ventilation should be given next time. Dryness, on the other hand, denotes *too much ventilation—unless the supply of moisture* has been neglected. Always make sure that the ventilation hole at the bottom of tank machines is unobstructed. Nothing can help you like your own observation. You should make systematic experiments, but do not commit the folly of listening too seriously to the pet ideas of others, whose condition may be totally different. Do not change any part of your management without a reason. Avoid, also, fantastic theories, such as that of smearing eggs with "hen-oil."

We often hear that the secret of good hatches is to spray the eggs with water The practice may be beneficial when there is insufficient moisture, but in any other case it is likely to lead to disaster.

It is important to remember that the conditions *outside a machine are quite as important as those* inside, and care must be taken in choosing a place for running the incubators. It shoud have a uniform temperature of 50 to 65 degrees, if possible; the temperature should on no account exceed 75 degrees, nor fall below 45 degrees. A celler is ideal, as there is plenty or moisture, and practically no vibration. It must, however, be well ventilated.

If I may venture an opinion, I shall say that incubator construction has become too stereotyped. Some makes have advantages over others, but all *have the same fault in a greater or less degree*—unequal distribution of temperature. There is a fortune waiting for anyone who can devise a machine with an absolutely uniform temperature in the egg-drawers, but I suggest that that person *must have completely new ideas on incubator* construction. I might mention here that a very common cause of unequal temperature is that the machine is not standing quite level. A spirit level should be used, for incubators should stand absolutely true.

I radily admit that there is very little new in anything I have said, but by summarising knowledge we are often able to see where to strike out in a new direction. At present, each must think for himself, and I hope the above will give food for thought. Even if results cannot be called bad, I do say that they are not good enough. Varying conditions must, I suppose, always mean varying management. Nevertheless, *I do feel that one of these days we shall be* able to formulate a body of rules, which will have more or less universal application. Before that day can come incubator manufacturers must give us machines which are less affected by external conditions. While congratulating these manufacturers on their present accomplishments, I look to their enterprise in making more and more improvements. For we have not yet been given the *perfect* machine.

IN THE LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE.

Gleanings from the Home Journals.

Those who belong to the elder generation, and whose memory carries back to the mid-years of the nineteenth century, can realise the wonderful changes which have taken place since that period. Science, practice, observation, and thoughtful experience have done much, and probably may do more. Signs are not wanting that the near future will see developments which may be even greater than those of the last eight decades. Some of these will undoubtedly have a profound influence on poultry husbandry, at any rate for such as are prepared to avail themselves of the newer knowledge and facilities which will be at command.

So far as can be anticipated we are entering a new era in respect to poultry culture, and those who are in a position to express an authorative opinion on the subject prophesy that as far as the poultry industry is concerned we may reasonably hope for more prosperous time and a happy solution to many of our poultry problems. This opinion is based upon the following factors :—

The Intensive System of Poultry Keeping.
The Discovery of Ultra-Violet Rays.
New Methods of Poultry House Construction.
Nutrition—with particular reference to Vitamin and Mineral Feeding.

The Intensive system.

There is nothing new about the intensive system of keeping poultry. Public attention was first attracted to its possibilities many years ago, when the first edition of Mrs. Raynes' book "Intensive Poultry Culture" was published by the Feathered World and the successful results obtained on the experimental farm of the S. P. B. A., and Mrs. Hunter's book on the subject have again brought it to notice.

It is in an endeavour to overcome the difficulties and labour costs of the semi-intensive system that the intensive system is being adopted. Many poultry farmers are resorting to the intensive system of chick-rearing ; and a large number are also experimenting with keeping their laying stock wholly intensively. The great drawback in the semi-intensive system—which has been successfully practised for many years —is the difficulty of keeping the land sweet and clean. There are two schools of opinion in regard to the extent and management of outside runs. One school advocates permanent grass-land, and the other school periodic cultivation. In the first case it is necessary to allot more square yards per bird, but provided that the farmer has plenty of land, the advantages are obivious. Nevertheless, any system which involves the maintenance of permanent sod must be attended with a greater risk of disease, or at least of the land becoming "fowl sick". There is no method of cleaning land so effective as cultivating and cropping it.

While a high standard of production can be maintained when the birds never leave their houses, it is reasonable to suppose that prolonged intensive culture would not, have a good effect on breeding, and it is questionable if intensive methods have yet reached a stage when a flock of birds can be kept in close confinement and bred from generation after generation for an indefinite period ; but all the major problems seem to have been solved, and that strictly intensive breeding farms are possible seems well within the range of probability, still, there is a lot of difference between intensive and semi-intensive rearing, and birds reared in close confinement need special treatment, which is in no way necessary in raising birds by less advanced methods. In the open air they get the full benefits of the sunlight, fresh green food, insect life, and probably, a certain amount of mineral matter ; all essential things that they cannot get so easily or cheaply in any other way. Undoubtedly chicks obtain in an open run certain benefits that are of an essential nature, but it does not follow that those benefits cannot be obtained in some other way. In fact it has been demonstrated that these essentials can be provided in other ways, and that a run is no longer considered absolutely essential, as it has been till very recent years. There would, however, appear to be room for much sympathy for those poultrymen who favour providing the chicks with plenty of liberty, and as long as land is available there seems little inducement to adopt intensive methods of rearing, where semi-intensive

(See on next page).

NOTES AND QUERIES.

By Geo. Howard, Sperrin Poultry Farm, Langley, Hitchin, England.

Imported and National Mark Egg Prices.—On the 28th May the Assistant Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture addressed a meeting of National Mark Egg Packers and in his address he mentioned that in April 1929, the average price of Danish 18 lb. eggs was 14*s*. 4*d*. per 120, while that of English National Mark Specials, which roughly corresponded to the Danish 18 lb. eggs in weight, was 14s 4½*d*., a difference of only ½*d*. per 120. In April 1930, the respective average prices were 12*s*. 9*d*. and 13*s*. 10½*d*. per 120, a difference of 1*s*. 1½*d*. and an increased difference over 1929 of 1*s*. 1*d*. per 120.

Possibly the Danish egg is by far the best of all imported eggs; before the National Mark Scheme for British eggs was introduced Danish eggs commanded a better price than most British eggs. The figures quoted above show that the British public appreciate a good British egg and are prepared to pay more for it than they pay for a good foreign egg. In fact, we are of the opinion that the majority of the British public are prepared to pay a higher price for an inferior British egg than they will pay for a good foreign egg, provided they know that the former is genuinely British. The same applies to most foodstuffs. There is a most decided prejudice against foodstuffs produced outside the British Isles, which

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methods have previously given satisfaction. The semi-intensivist usually feeds his chicks on a comparatively inexpensive diet, which has proved very satisfactory, but intensive rearers usually give decidedly costly mashes in order to provide certain essentials which the chicks might obtain for themselves without cost if they are allowed their liberty. This is a reason why poultry-keepers who have always given their chicks liberty are not likely to be easily converted to intensive methods of rearing.

It would, however, be absurd to deride intensive rearing as valueless, since it makes it possible to maintain large flocks of birds on a very limited space. The intensive system, as applied successfully on commercial lines, is a very recent development, and has not yet been fully tried and tested, but it is believed it has a future and will spread considerably during the next decade. Once we admit the possibility of commercialising intensive poultry farming methods, the system can be seen to possess some very real advantages.

The ability to run really large egg farms on very small areas would make it feasible to choose sites for the purpose just outside large towns which would provide a market for the produce almost at the gates of the farm. Intensive housing would also provide splendid opportunities for making the fullest use of labour-saving devices and reducing the wages bill to the minimum. Also provided all the bird's requirements could be supplied in close confinement, a more effectual control over the stock would be possible, and we should become almost entirely independent of weather conditions.

It is claimed for intensive rearing that the chicks cannot pick up infection from the soil, though it is possible that danger has been grossly over-rated. It must be admitted that even the healthiest and strongest of stock kept under ideal conditions are liable to infectious diseases, if infection be introduced. It may be introduced in many ways; from infected land, from other people's stock, from birds returning from shows or laying tests, from rats from a neighbouring farm, and even from wild birds. We may agree that the healthiest developed chick is better able to resist infection in the ordinary way, but it is clear that even the strongest may go down before the massed attack of an epidemic.

What does appeal to many in regard to intensive rearing is that the youngsters are protected from the raids of pests, and many are adopting this course to avoid the annual losses caused by Hawks, rooks, neighbours' cats, as well as to provide protection against cold winds and sudden storms. These advantages must be particularly apparent to all poultry-keepers, as the losses enumerated above are by no means easy to avoid. In fact the real difficulty is to find time in the very busy season to devote to fighting the various pests which carry off the chickens from time to time.

United Provinces Poultry Farm, Lucknow.

Our many clients will share with the Association the pride they have in announcing that at the recent All-India Show, out of eighteen exhibits entered all won awards with the exception of one pullet.

We also carried off the supreme trophy of the Viceroy's Cup with an utility exhibit "Black Australorp Cockerel" who also won four other challenge cups.

Our other wins were in R. I. Reds with a pullet bred from our Prince of Wales's Strain and the best Breeding trio challenge cup fell to our R. I. Reds.

Our Light Sussex won highest honours including challenge cup and both White and Brown eggs from the Farm went up t p.

We have some attractive offers in breeding pens to sell next month, the pens that have bred the above good stock.

Chickens and eggs are now on sale also. Send for our full price list.

Apply Secretary,—

8. **U. P. P. A. LUCKNOW.**

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prejudice is to the benefit of British producers. The marking of foreign produce will, in our opinion, help the British producer irrespective of the quality of his produce, although *naturally he who produces a* good grade will benefit most.

Disease.—One of my frinds in the East writes me as follows :—"Disease has again broken out in my yard and I have already lost 100 small chicks ages from 3 to 6 weeks. The older ones get affected also but recover. The symptoms are (1) stops eating and remains drooping in one place, (2) sometimes passes a thin light (very light) creamish yellow dropping, (3) *begins to have a rattling noise* in the throat, (4) legs begin to give way and the chick falls down and cannot support itself on its legs, (5) it struggles for a day to 3 days when it either recovers or dies, (6) absolutely refuses food and seldom drinks water." My friend has to hand feed the chicks and apparently has succeeded in bringing several through the disease but losses among the very *young ones have been heavy. He asks whether* I can advise him as to treatment for future outbreaks.

I am afraid that I can be of very little assistance in the matter of disease and am *referring* to this in these notes in the hope that someone in India or Burma will give advice. In 1920, when I published the *"Indian Poultry Manual", I stated therein that* whilst I had studied the subject of poultry diseases very closely I had not sufficient practical experience of sick and ailing poultry to be an expert at curing them ; that "prevention was better then cure" and if a few rules regarding sanitation, etc., were carried out one is rarely troubled with disease. The points emphasised in that book were (*a*) segregate *for at least 10 days all new arrivals*, (*b*) have a few boxes or coops set aside as a hospital to which any birds looking at all queer can instantly be removed, (*c*) bear *in mind that the three most important* medicines are fresh air, sunshine and exercise, and the next three green gass or lucerne, Epson and Glauber salts. Further, I stated that I had no belief in doctoring chicks at all, and made no attempt to do so beyond an occasional dose of salts. *Well, it is* nine years since I published that book since which I had three very successful years with poultry as my hobby in India as those who attended the shows in India for that period know, and a further six years with my own poultry farm here, and I can see no reason for going back on what I wrote in 1921. *It may seem brutal but it does not pay to* doctor small chicks. For many years any chick that looks seedy for a few hours is given a quick death. Harden your hearts and do this and it is surprising how few chicks you have to kill in a season. Chicks are usually visited at least six times a day for food or water. Mark a chick that looks droopy ; if droopy at next visit kill it or if you cannot bring *yourself to do this separate it and kill* it if it has not bucked up by the evening.

Since 1921 Iodine has been used a good deal for chicks and undoubtedly has saved the lives of thousands of chicks. A few drops in the drinking water generally has most beneficial results when a batch of chicks commences to go wrong. Don't give it however until something is wrong. The fact that a chick is noticed to be looking seedy does *not necessarily mean that the whole batch need* attention. But, if you have 3 or 4 down the same day in a batch of, say 50, you may take it things are not as they should be and if they be given the happy dispatch and a few drops of iodine added to the drinking water you may save a lot of chicks and trouble.

Now as regards my friends troubles, had I been in his place what should I have done ? With the youngsters I should have killed them off as soon as they started to droop, especially after 4 or 5 of them had been stricken. A few drops of tincture of iodine added to the water, as careful as possible that infection is not carried to other batches, and *trust to luck. If after 3 or 4 days it continued to* spread, then I should have cut my losses and killed off the whole batch, and I am confident that I should have been well rid of them and probably saved it spreading to other batches.

As for the older birds, which I understand were from 3 to 4 months old, and all of which recover after treatment, I can only suggest strict segregation of the chicks as soon as anything wrong is noticed *a dose of Glauber or Epson salts to clear the bowels,* followed by hand feeding if necessary (bread and milk for preference), iodine in the drinking water,

(See column 2 on next page).

MISSION POULTRY FARM,

ETAH, U. P.

SPECIALIZES IN :—

DUAL PURPOSE EXHIBITION AND UTILITY R. I. REDS.
EXHIBITION AND UTILITY MINORCAS.
EXHIBITION AND UTILITY WHITE LEGHORNS.

Our recent Wins.

CALCUTTA POULTRY EXHIBITION, DECEMBER 1929.

5 Challenge Cups, 3 Open Specials, 9 Firsts, 7 Seconds, 3 Thirds, 3 V. H. C. Including BEST BIRD IN THE SHOW, with a R. I. RED PULLET ; I. P. C. Challenge Cup. for the BEST R. I. RED COCKEREL and Galstaun Challenge Cup for the BEST LEGHORN.

ALL-INDIA POULTRY EXHIBITION, LUCKNOW, JANUARY 1930.

5 Challenge Cups, 7 Firsts, 4 Seconds, 2 Thirds, 1 V. H. C., 2 Reserve. Including I P. C. Challenge Cup for BEST R. I. RED COCKEREL and Galstaun Challenge Cup for BEST LEGHORN.

Eggs for Hatching.

R. I. REDS. EX-UTILITY	**Rs. 30/-**	per Dozen.
R. I. REDS UTILITY	**Rs. 18/-**	per Dozen.
EXHIBITION MINORCAS (Imported Pen) ...	**Rs. 30/-**	per Dozen.
UTILITY MINORCAS	**Rs. 18/-**	per Dozen.
EXHIBITION LEGHORNS (Dewar's) ...	**Rs. 24/-**	per Dozen.
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Packing and despatch free. 15 eggs sent to the Dozen.

BREEDING STOCK FOR SALE.

Cocks, Cockerels, Hens, Pullets, Exhibition White Leghorns. Rs. 15/-, 20/-, and 25/- each.
Utility White Leghorns. Rs. 10/-, 15/- and 20/- each.

Crate and Freight extra at cost.

SATISFACTIONS GUARANTEED.

1. **A. E. SLATER,** ***Manager.***

SUGGESTIONS TO NOVICES ON Inbreeding and Outcrossing.

(By "Poultryman".)

The ambition of every fancier should be to endeavour to cultivate a strain of his own. If he is wise he will specialise by selecting one variety, and endeavour to master the chief characteristics of the breed. Trying too many breeds usually ends in nowhere. The beginner will be advised to consult a member of the club who has a reliable strain of the breed he has selected, one whose stock is consistently winning at shows, rather than buy birds of various strains at catalogue prices at shows, and expect them to produce first-class stock.

A second, or even third rater, that comes from an established strain, being line bred for several generations, will eventually give better results than birds of unknown pedigree. It is true that in stock raising blood will tell, and if two fanciers started at the same time, the one with mixed blood, of questionable pedigree, and the other with a reliable strain, the latter would certainly reach the top first, as it is not so much the successful exhibitor, as the successful breeder, that the novice should go to for his foundation stock.

Undoubtedly, the easiest method to reproduce type, colour, markings, etc., is by close inbreeding. The better the stock the easier is the production of a champion. Remember, however excessive, inbreeding carried out injudiciously means loss of constitution but the fancier must be guided by the stock he has at his disposal; and where the experienced breeder has the advantage he knows just how much and how little to inbreed. The novice must therefore, not be discouraged if his matings do not hit in the first season. Even if we inbreed or outcross, breeding always gives uncertain results.

Always select the birds with the strongest constitutions for the breeding pen. The best results are invariably attained by mating father to daughter,

(See on next page).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,

Sergeant Eatwell has apparently missed my meaning.

I take my hat off to the Etah Mission for the splendid work Mr. Slater is doing for the industry in India, none know it better than we of the Club that he is an outstanding figure and long may he continue to show us how to breed poultry.

My whole argument is in representitive shows held by the Club in either open or closed competitions it is not fair to ask the amateur of the medium purse and small flock to hope to compete against imported birds given to the Etah Mission which are aristocrats of their breeds and if Mr. Slater so desires can be sent down to our shows to just wipe up the board and leave the amateur down a side street.

In the opinion of many these birds should be absolutely barred from competing in the same classes because they are having a noted effect on the Club shows and amateurs are getting disheartened because

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and nothing else unless some expert on disease diagnoses the disease and suggests a cure. Not very helpful, perhaps, but then I must admit that from the symptoms stated I fail to recognise any of the common ailments to which poultry are subject, although many ailments show one or more of the symptoms.

PEDIGREE BRED EXHIBITION-UTILITY.

WHITE LEGHORNS.

Pen is headed by a cockerel whose sire's dam had a record of 322 eggs in twelve months.

Eggs for hatching Rs. 8/- per seven eggs.

K. D. GARRISON, :: *Akola Berar, C. P.*

FOR SALE.

BLACK ORPINGTON TRIO (One cock and two hens)

Best from Mrs. FAWKE'S FARM, Lucknow.

Price Rs. 40/-

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P. O. DAYARAMPUR. - - - Dist. RAJSHAHI,

R. S. Malanchi, E. B. Ry.

OVUM

fortifies the Constitution.

TO have healthy birds there must be a strong constitution. To secure this, OVUM can be specially recommended. Its tonic properties are such as to fortify the constitution, so laying a good foundation, enabling birds to withstand wear and tear more successfully.

Results certainly prove that OVUM aids poultry in resisting ills to which they are liable in India.

The use of OVUM also strengthesn the ovaries and enables birds to recover more quickly from the strain of laying an egg—therefore they are the sooner ready to lay again.

YOUNG CHICKS

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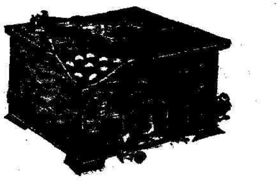

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12.

they see they cannot hope to compete, and to quote the remarks of some I spoke to in the Calcutta Show last year. "Etah Mission farm seem to make a one man show of this".

The result is this year people will remember and say "What's the use, we can't hope to compete against this". Next year fewer entries.

Sergeant Eatwell is a new comer to the club. He intends to compete this year. Right, from his small flock can be hope to compete on level terms with the Etah Farm when to say nothing to the Imported 'cracks' he must compete against. All Mr. Slater has to do is to select from some hundreds of birds on his farm and in his district to find something to beat Sergeant Eatwell's pick of his little flock.

All things being square I now hazard a guess in whatever class he shows if he relies entirely on his own little flock and Mr. Slater is really out to lift a certain cup Sergeant Eatwell won't see Mr. Slater's heels for dust and small stones unless he has what we all strive for but never attain—the world beater—and I know a little about amateur breeders in India.

Now then members of the Club let us hear from some of you who are in a habit of competing at our Club shows.

Sergeant Eatwell or the undersigned are going to be torn up in this shuffle and your replies will make good reading.

I think the decision will come out at the Annual General this year and I'm with the crowd.

My motto also is—A wide field, *no favours*, and *equal competition.*

A. O. FODEN.

(*Continued from previous page*).

or daughters, selecting the latter as nearly like the father as possible. The same remarks apply when mating mother to son.

The question of inbreeding and crossing is a most interesting subject, but the practice of inbreeding must be guarded, and above all things, the fancier must use his own discretion, and immediately the first signs of deterioration is observed an outcross must be introduced, and this outcross should preferably be a hen, so that the progeny may be more easily noted as to the result of the outcross, whether favourable or otherwise.

SIR,

The letter by Mr. J. Eatwell in the August number of the Gazette as an instructive article is not quite a success.

The activities of Mr. Slater in the Etah District, U. P. have been known to Club members and others for a number of years, and his work in this direction has been highly commended by many high officials in India. What Mr. Eatwell has evidently not realised is the enormous supply of high-class poultry produce which Mr. Slater has created round about his doors.

This enormous supply affords opportunities such as no one with any business acumen could very well neglect to take advantage of.

Taking it for granted that the villagers purchase eggs for hatching from Mr. Slater at one anna each, is it not reasonable to suppose that these villagers would in turn, so to speak, be falling over each other to supply Mr. Slater with first class tables eggs at the same rate. I should certainly say so, and undoubtedly from between 50 to 100 dozen eggs could be collected daily from this source to supply the demands of a market like Delhi, practically the whole year round.

Without going into figures, a very substantial income is here for the taking, which should not be allowed to fall into the hands of vendors.

The same applies to stock birds. Here again the supply is immense, and in the event of Mr. Slater receiving a large order for stock he need only send word round to the villages and in flock the cockerels and pullets, the number required are selected and paid for, and the lucky salesmen depart well satisfied.

As a case in point I can mention one instance. At the All-India show in Calcutta in 1928, a gentleman of very high position approached me with the object of starting a commercial egg farm near Calcutta. Without going into details, I informed this gentleman that the scheme would be possible in a country like England where laying pullets to the number of from one to five thousand could be purchased at one time, whereas in India the number in hundreds would prove a difficult matter. This gentleman assured me, however, that Mr. Slater would guarantee 300, and the U. P. P. Farm would guarantee a large number. As mentioned the supply is enormous, and Mr. Slater could possibly have doubled the number quoted. Mr. Eatwell may have been favorably impressed by a few observations made during his visit to Etah in February last, but he has evidently failed to observe and make a note of the full page advertise of the Mission Poultry Farm in which the prices of hatching eggs to fanciers and others outside the Etah area, is not one anna, but in some cases as much as Rs. 2 each egg (infertiles not replaced), and these are the people who have to take a back seat at the shows, or be content with a yellow ticket for their exhibits, and who probably wonder

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Pills for Turkey chicks during their infancy to pull them through their infant ailments.
Apply A. G. Roberts,
3-B, Museum Road, Bangalore.
2.

why it is they cannot snatch one or two of the plums for themselves.

A glance at the full page advertisements of both the U. P. and Etah Mission Poultry Farms will probably answer the question better than any letter.

But let us turn to the subject under discussion, which in their case is ; should the birds of Government or Mission Poultry Farms be allowed to compete at shows ? The former receiving provincial grants, and the latter grants from America. I say emphatically no, and to allow this to continue will eventually mean a great falling off of the exhibits of the smaller fry, with a subsequent drop in the membership roll, and a falling off of subscribers to the Gazette, a state of affairs which should be prevented at any cost.

As a solution of the difficulties may I be allowed to suggest that the following may receive the consideration of the Club Committee and members.

That poultry shows in India be divided into three section as follows :—

(1) General section. All breeds and varieties of poultry bred in India, to include waterfowl, Turkeys, pigeons, etc.

In this section Club members may compete for *all* specials including Club Challenge Cups. Non-members may compete for Open specials *only*.

(2) Imported section. All overseas exhibits, including birds imported by Indian breeders.

(3) Government and Mission Poultry Farms Section.

Certificates of Merit may be awarded in both these sections.

In the latter section no entrance fees need be imposed, but a nominal ground rent may be charged for a covered enclosure in which to stage the exhibits.

In conclusion I feel sure that the adoption of some system on the above lines would put a stop to grumbling in future. In any case a trial is worthy of consideration and should prove of advantage to poultry fanciers in India, whose interests should be studied in every possible way.

S. WIGGAL.

SIR,

With regard to the correspondence in your June issue regarding cross-breds. I have taken the opportunity whilst attending the Poultry Congress at the Crystal Palace to ask two eminent people in the poultry world which is the correct way to express a cross. They both inform me that technically it is correct to name the hen first and the cock last.

From a common sense point of view it seems to be simpler to put it this way, because the hen is crossed by the cock, but this principle is very often departed from. But which ever way it is expressed, one always knows that the female is silver and the male gold, or barred to black, etc., as the case may be.

DOUGLAS ANSELL.

WHEN DOCTORS DISAGREE.

SIR,

Having had bad luck with R. I. R.'s last year, I consulted "Buff Rock" about it. He very kindly suggested that I should change the breed and try Leghorn. I do not very much fancy this breed, and happening to read an article about the B. Minorcas in the Year Book, in which the writer praises this breed for its hardiness and suitability fot the beginner, I decided to try the B. Minorcas. I wrote to a famous Minorca breeder and expert about my trouble and asked him the price of a trio. He shied me off the breed, said the Minorcas were not hardy at all and were subject to cold and roup. He suggested Light Sussex. I had written in the mean time to a Government expert of—and he recommended Sussex too. I then wrote to a breeder of Sussex, told him the facts and asked him the price of a trio. He warned me not to try this breed, said it was not so hardy as I thought. I wrote to a couple of other experts who have very wisely refrained from replying.

Choise of a suitable breed is the most important consideration for a beginner. I am thankful to the people who have taken the trouble to help me with their suggestions. But I am more confused than ever. As a famous advertisement puts it, "What should Mr. A do?" Yet I feel that the experts are all right in their way.

As a result of all this correspondence, I am convinced of one thing though. It is that the famous breeders of Poultry in India are the most straight-forward and honest people one can come across, and the beginner is perfectly safe in doing business with them.

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? ? ?

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Letters should be addressed—BUFF ROCK,
C/o. The Hon. Editor, I. P. GAZETTE and marked "Query".

Where readers desire an individual reply they should enclose a stamped addressed envelope and a fee of As. -/8/- is charged.

Mr. R. *Pallom P. O., Kottayam.*—Cases of which you refer to are often met with also cases of a bird both crowing and laying eggs are known, still further I know of a case where a bird for its 1st year was a cock, functiened as a male and then proceeded in its 2nd year to lay eggs. This bird when opened up at a certain Government farm in India had both an ovary and testicles. In your case, however, it may be only a case of backwardness in development and will soon show its sex.

Mr. S. I. A. *Rajnandgoan.*—As you do not appear keen on the Leghorn then I say Bk. Minorca will suit your district best. By all means purchase from the breeder you refer to. I know the stock and reference to last year's show awards are sufficient proof that you will get the goods. Re sand. Yes by all means lay off an area it will cut down grit exes and the birds will have good dust bathing facilities.

Mrs. P. *Rowali.*—The grain feed is OK but rearrange your mash like the following—Bran 4 parts, Fish meal 1 part, Biscuit meal 2 parts, Ata 1 part. Same percentage of salt and charcoal. I saw S. G. O. advertised in the Gazette this month.

Mr. D. *Calcutta.*—I do not know the so called Vet who advised you to dose that amount of Iodine but you are lucky to have any alive to-day. Cut Iodine out altogether and substitute Pott. Permang. crystals enough to give the water a pinkish tinge only.

Mr. J. *Kulibari.*—Mate the cockerel you refer to to six of your best layers of the same age as his mother and if you wish you can mate his mother to him. You should mate up about the 2nd week in September and after 10 days you can start to breed from them.

Mr. K *Madaripur.*—For so small a number why use an incubator? Set under separate hens. If however you prefer to use the machine then mark the eggs and on the 20th day place into little bags made of mosquito netting and as soon as you remove the hatch from the machine mark the various chicks accordingly so that you can pick them out from the brooder and distinguish each separate mating.

Mr. G. *Gouripur.*—This is undoubtedly tape worm and the cure is as follows. Ten drops of Turpentine to one teaspoonful of olive oil before the first feed in the morning dose every alternate day for 5 days. If a flock to be treated then add the proportions given to the morning mash feed. After the first 5 doses you can put Epson salts in the water one tea-spoonful to a quart of water.

Mr. S. *Kulu district.*—A very sound idea. The poultry will assist the fruit crop by devouring the larvae of the insect pests and assist the soil by the manure deposit. As it would be free range 200 to the acre will not overload the ground.

Mr. W. *Niabari.*—The mash formula is far too concentrated. Increase the bran to 6 parts and cut down the meat meal to 1 part which will then give a total of 12 parts and will form a bulk ration suitable for all day feeding.

Mr. H. *Calcutta.*—The birds should have been laying for the last month had they have been reared and fed right. Will you please let me have a chart of your feeding, also the housing and amount of space the birds have and I can perhaps advise you where the backwardness lies.

Mrs. J. *Madras.*—The exclusion of a male does not interfere with the egg output one little bit, on the other hand, if anything, the output if anything is increased. Keep your two cockerels apart until you wish to obtain hatching eggs then place them in pens each with 6 hens. After 10 days you can set the eggs.

Mr. G. *Bidgoan.*—On the lines given in your letter I am afraid you will not make any profit from your stock. Keep females only up to 24 months after which dispose of them to make room for pullets. A pullet or first year bird lays about $\frac{3}{8}$ths of the number of eggs more in its first year to what it does in its second. Take 200 birds laying 175 eggs per year in the first year this is a falling off of 14 thousand in the second year. At annas 12 per dozen you lose Rs. 875 and that means the total food bill for the lot for 8 months.

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